(c) whether Government has also agreed to cover only 10.68 crores families under Antyodaya Anna Yojana who have been issued BPL cards by the States; and

(d) if so, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act. Under the proposed law, every BPL (Below Poverty Line) family is to be entitled to receive 25 kg of foodgrains per month. Details of eligible BPL families to be covered, methodology for their identification, issue of targeted identification cards to them, subsidy component, etc. are yet to be worked out.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration cards issued by State/UT Governments, as reported by 30.06.2009 are 2.43 crore only. It is not proposed to cover 10.68 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards under AAY category.

Ban on export of edible oil and pulses

2306. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has extended ban on export of edible oils and pulses for one more year and allowed import of pulses at zero duty beyond March 31st, 2009 and also extended scheme to determine imported pulses through PDS for over six months;

(b) whether Government has also taken decision on wheat export ban;

(c) whether Government has decided to remove cap on storage by traders with surplus wheat inventory;

(d) whether Government has achieved target of all the commodities; and

(e) if so, the latest position and what are surplus stocks at present in respect of wheat, rice and sugar?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Export of edible oils has been banned *w.e.f.* 17.03.2008 and extended upto 16.03.2010 except coconut oil (through Cochin Port) and certain oils produced from minor forest origin. However, export of edible oils has been permitted *w.e.f.* 20th November, 2008 in branded consumer packs of upto 5 kgs., subject to a limit of 10,000 tons upto 31st October, 2009.

The ban on export of pulses (except kabuli chana) has been extended upto 31.3.2010.

Zero duty on import of pulses has been extended upto 31.3.2010.

The scheme for distribution of imported pulses through PDS has been extended for 6 months, upto 30.9.2009.

(b) Sale of foodgrains for commercial exports from Central Pool has been stopped *w.e.f.* 01.10.2004. Export of wheat from the country was banned *w.e.f.* 9.2.2007. Export of wheat products (Maida, Rava/Sirgi, wholemeal atta and resultant atta) was also banned *w.e.f.* 08.10.2007.

Export of wheat flour (Maida), Semolina (Rava/Sirgi) wholemeal atta and resultant atta has been allowed on private account *w.e.f.* 03.07.2009 subject to the following restrictions:—

(i) The export is permitted subject to a limit of 6,50,000 tons upto 31.3.2010.

(ii) Exports shall be allowed only from Customs EDI Ports.

(c) Due to record procurement of wheat in RMS 2008-09 and 2009-10, the notification issued under EC Act enabling the State Governments to impose stock limit on wheat has been withdrawn with effect from 1.4.2009.

(d) Since procurement of foodgrains (rice and wheat) under MSP operations are open ended no target is fixed. Against the estimated wheat procurement of 244.2 lakh tons in current RMS 2009-10, 251.88 lakh tons of wheat has been procured as on 22.7.2009. Similarly against the estimated procurement of 282 lakh tons of rice in current KMS 2008-09, 318.35 lakh tons of rice has been procured as on 22.7.2009.

(e) The stocks of wheat and rice held by FCI and State agencies in the Central Pool as on 1.7.2009 is 329.22 lakh tons and 196.16 lakh tons respectively against the buffer norms of 171 lakh tons of wheat and 98 lakh tons of rice.

There is no surplus stock of sugar in the country at present.

Overhauling of PDS

2307. SHRI MANGALA KISAN:
SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to have massive overhauling of the country's public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when such overhauling would take place in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented jointly by Government of India and State/UT Governments with sharing of responsibilities in this regard. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible BPL and AAY families based on estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through the fair price shops rest with the State/UT Governments.